

# ST. PETER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Third Sunday of Advent

December 14, 2025 7:30am and 10:00am

## Aloha and Welcome!

*Whoever you are, whatever your story, you are welcome here. We pray that your soul is nourished through worship, the beauty of this sacred space, and the presence of God's love within this unity.*

**We are blessed to have you join us for worship today!**



### CONTACT US

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On the Web: [www.stpetershonolulu.org](http://www.stpetershonolulu.org)

# Holy Eucharist

**Prelude**                    *(Take this time to center your hearts for worship.)*

**Welcome**

## The Word of God

*Presider:*    Blessed be the God of our salvation:

*People:*      **Who bears our burdens and forgives our sins.**

**Processional Hymn**    *Lo! He comes, with clouds descending*    **Hymnal 1982, #57**

## Lighting of the Third Advent Candle

**Hymn**                    *Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah*

**Light three candles to watch for Messiah:**

**Let the light banish darkness.**

**Lift your heads and lift high the gateway**

**For the King of glory.**

## The Collect of the Day

*Presider*        God be with you.

*People*         **And also with you.**

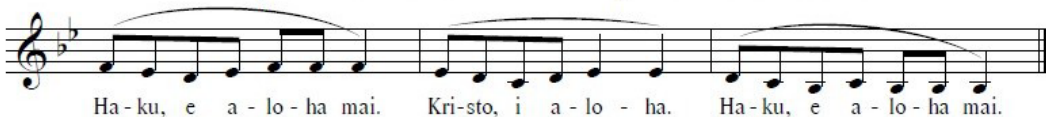
*Presider*        Let us pray. *(silence)*

Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever **Amen**.

## Kyrie

*Lord have mercy*

Joseph A. Eppink



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## The First Reading

Isaiah 35:1-10

<sup>1</sup>The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad; the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus <sup>2</sup>it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and shouting. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God.]]  
Strengthen the weak hands and make firm the feeble knees. <sup>4</sup>Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you." <sup>5</sup>Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be opened; <sup>6</sup>then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert; <sup>7</sup>the burning sand shall become a pool and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp; the grass shall become reeds and rushes. <sup>8</sup>A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray. <sup>9</sup>No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. <sup>10</sup>And the ransomed of the Lord shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

**Thanks be to God.**

## The Psalm

Luke 1:46b-55

46b My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,

**47 my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,**

48 for you, Lord, have looked with favor on your lowly servant.

From this day all generations will call me blessed:

**49 you, the Almighty, have done great things for me  
and holy is your name.**

50 You have mercy on those who fear you,  
from generation to generation.

**51 You have shown strength with your arm  
and scattered the proud in their conceit,**

52 casting down the mighty from their thrones  
and lifting up the lowly.

**53 You have filled the hungry with good things  
and sent the rich away empty.**

54 You have come to the aid of your servant Israel,  
to remember the promise of mercy,

**55 the promise made to our forebears,  
to Abraham and his children forever.**

### **The Second Reading**

**James 5:7-10**

Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Hymn**

*Come, thou long-expected Jesus*

**Hymnal 1982, #66**

*Before the Gospel we sing:*

*After the Gospel we sing:*

**Verse 1:**

**Come, thou long-expected Jesus,  
Born to set thy people free;  
From our fears and sins release us  
Let us find our rest in thee.**

**Verse 4:**

**By thine own eternal Spirit  
Rule in all our hearts alone;  
By thine all-sufficient merit  
Raise us to thy glorious throne.**

### **The Holy Gospel**

**Matthew 11:2-11**

*Presider:* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, Lord Christ**

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me." As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to

look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written, ‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.’ “Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

**The Sermon**

**The Rev. Ruth M. Peterson**

**Music Meditation**

(7:30am)

**Manny Dayao**

(10:00am)

**Chancel Choir**

**Nicene Creed**

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God, begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven:  
by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate  
from the Virgin Mary, and was made man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven and is seated  
at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.**

**With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.  
He has spoken through the Prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.**

**We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.**

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

## **The Prayers of the People**

*Each petition will end with “God of grace” and the response is “Hear our prayer”.*

### **Confession of Sin**

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Silence may be kept.*

Most merciful God,

**we confess that we have sinned against you**

**in thought, word, and deed,**

**by what we have done,**

**and by what we have left undone.**

**We have not loved you with our whole heart;**

**we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.**

**We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.**

**For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,**

**have mercy on us and forgive us;**

**that we may delight in your will,**

**and walk in your ways,**

**to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. Amen.

### **The Peace**

Presider    The peace of Christ be always with you.

People      **And also with you.**

### **Announcements and Birthdays** (pg. 830, #50)

*Welcome to those of you who are visiting with us today! Please take a moment to sign a pew card and place it in the offering plate so that we can extend a personal welcome to you. We are glad you're here!*

**Offering**      *Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us,  
an offering and sacrifice to God.*

Offertory Response

When he comes, our glo - rious King, all his ran - somed home to bring.  
 then a - new this song we'll sing: Al - le - lu - ia! What a Sav - ior!

**The Great Thanksgiving**

Eucharistic Prayer C

God be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is right to give you thanks and praise O Lord, our God, Sustainer of the Universe.

**Glory to you for ever and ever.**

At your command all things came to be: shining light and enfolding dark; the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home; by your will they were created and have their being. From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with the capacity for memory, reason, and skill; you made us the stewards of your creation.

**Glory to you for ever and ever.**

But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another. Again and again you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous law. In the fullness of time you sent your Son, born of a woman, to be our Savior. He was wounded for our transgressions, and bruised for our iniquities. By his death he opened to us the way of freedom and peace.

**Glory to you for ever and ever.**

Therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

**Sanctus** (front section of Hymnal 1982)

**S130**

*The people stand or kneel.*

Blessed are you, Lord our God, for sending us Jesus, the Christ, who on the night he was handed over to suffering and death, took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, gave it to his friends, and said, "Take, eat: this is my body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

In the same way, after supper, he took the cup of wine; he gave thanks, and said, "Drink this, all of you: this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving, we celebrate his death and resurrection, as we await the day of his coming.

**Glory to you for ever and ever.**

Therefore, we who have been redeemed by Jesus Christ, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Savior.

Sanctify us also, and let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.

**Glory to you for ever and ever.**

Pour out your Spirit upon the whole earth and make it your new creation. Gather your Church together from the ends of the earth into your kingdom, where peace and justice are revealed, that we, with all your people, of every language, race, and nation, may share the banquet you have promised. Through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ, all honor and glory are yours, creator of all.

**Glory to you for ever and ever. Amen.**

**Our Father, who art in heaven,**

**hallowed be thy Name,**

**thy kingdom come,**

**thy will be done,**

**on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread,**

**And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory  
for ever and ever. Amen.**

Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

**Therefore let us keep the feast.**

The Gifts of God for the people of God: Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

### **Communion Distribution**

*All baptized are welcome to receive Christ's body and blood. Those who are not baptized are encouraged to come forward for a blessing, signaling this by crossing your arms over one's chest.*

*\* Communion may be received by kneeling or standing at the altar rail.*

*\* Gluten free wafers are available upon request of the server.*

*\* You may partake from the cup by drinking or by intinction (dipping a small portion of the bread, being careful not to touch the wine with your fingers).*

*\* If you wish to receive communion in the pew, please let an usher know.*

*For those joining by live-stream or watching online at a later time, although you are not physically receiving communion, you are invited to spend this time in prayer, acknowledging your desire to be wholly united with Jesus and for your soul to never be separated from him.*

### **Post Communion Prayer (Standing or kneeling)**

*Presider:* Let us pray.

**God our host, at this table you have fed us with joy and gladness.  
Send us forth, eager to share the feast, welcome the stranger,  
and bear good fruit in the name of Jesus. Amen.**

### **The Blessing**

May God who comes among us,

Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,

grant you patience in waiting, peace in the darkness,

and good news to share today and always. **Amen.**

### **Recessional Hymn**

*Hark! The glad sound!*

**Hymnal 1982, #72**

### **The Dismissal**

*Presider:* Go in peace. Keep awake.

*All sing*      **Rejoice! Rejoice!**  
**Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.**

## **Organ Postlude**

### **PARISH PRAYER LIST**

*Please call or email Tiare Ono, tiare.h.ono@gmail.com if you have a prayer request. Always ask permission of the person first if you want to add someone's name other than your own. Be sure to provide the church office with updates. Names added by members will remain on our prayer list for one month. After that time, the names will be cycled off the list, unless there is a request for the name to be added for another month.*

*Joe & Kathleen C., Sim K., Natalia P., Valerie Y. B., Eduardo C., Rosie C., Peter D., Susan D., LaVerne D., Cathlen D., Dallis F-N., Gail F-S., Catherine F., Bert & Cheryl F., Cal G., Iris, Francis I., Ken I., Sue J., Judy & Maurice, Jonathan, Elise K., Hilary K., Roland K., Gerald K., Mel K., Cynthia L., Loretta L., Lincoln L., Charles L., Bill McK., Lea M., D.N., Dara N., Kelly N., Carolyn N., Ralph P., Franklin P., Rodney P., Sherri P-H., Monica P., Sharon P., Janet P., Patricia S., Ho-Min S., Ediza T., Dan T., Stan T., Regina T., Toni, Bertha U., Stuart U., Jackson VM., Janet VM., Roy W. & family, Al W., Ian W., Roland W., Via W., Steve Y., Tim Y., Lynette Y.*

*Also, we pray for the victims of war in the Middle East, Ukraine, and all those affected by gun violence. If you are interested in providing intentional prayers for those on our prayer list and others for whom we pray, become part of the Prayer Circle. Please contact Tiare Ono, tiare.h.ono@gmail.com or the church office.*

### **EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES THIS MORNING!**

**This morning's Adult Forum** - Meet in the Parish Hall between the 7:30am and 10:00am services. Pr. Ruth leads this morning's study using the book "Walk in Love: Episcopal Beliefs & Practices". Zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89419687677?pwd=M00yc3pPRDNqN1FpY3U0MjdCeS9RUT09>. Meeting ID: 894 1968 7677. Passcode: 011681

**Children's Christian Adventure will be on break** between now and January 4, 2026 and will resume on January 11.

**Electronic Giving** - You can give to St. Peter's Church electronically with



this QR code or schedule your pledge for automatic withdrawal by going to the church's website, [www.stpetershonolulu.org](http://www.stpetershonolulu.org) and clicking on "Donate." You may also mail your offerings and pledges to the church office. Thank you for your part in making this ministry

possible.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Mahalo Chucky Nakoa and Beez Zane** for coordinating this morning's Children's Christmas Program!

**Today is the last day to make a Christmas Flower Offering** – Please complete the insert on pg. 16 and mail or scan it to the church office. Forms received by today will be included in the Christmas bulletins.

**Pastor Ruth is away between Dec. 15 -23.** For pastoral care, please contact the church office.

**Getting Ready to Celebrate Christmas!** On the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Christmas, our worship will be filled with as many of your favorite Christmas carols as possible. Please tell us your favorite Christmas carols, by filling out the form on pg. 17 and returning it to the church office by Dec. 21.

**Did you forget to bring your pledge card?** Never fear – there is **STILL** time! Place them in the offering plate or mail to the church office. Pledges are welcome at any time! Packets are available at the back of the church.

**The deadline for end of year giving** needs to be received or postmarked by Dec. 31 in order to appear on your 2025 Giving Statement. We appreciate your support of St. Peter's throughout the year!

**Join us in Contemplative Prayer**, a practice rooted in ancient Christian tradition. Meet in the sanctuary at 6pm -7:30pm this Wednesday, Dec. 17. For more information, contact Fr. Bill Heran, [w.heran@gmail.com](mailto:w.heran@gmail.com)

**Blue Worship – Special service this Thur. Dec. 18, 6:00pm** during Jazz Vespers. This is geared toward helping those present recognize their strength and encourage them to be gentle with themselves. It's hoped this will lead to comfort in shared experiences of loss and love, emerging with renewed peace and hope.

**Special Youth Gathering, July 28-31, 2026.** Registration needed by Dec. 31. Speak with Pastor Ruth for information.

**Non-perishable food still needed!** Please bring canned goods to the church on Sundays, and they'll be delivered to the Hawaii Foodbank.

**A Moment with Music:** Immerse yourself in scripture readings and hymns. This week focuses on Advent 3. Available by 6 AM, you can enjoy

this 7-minute meditation at your convenience on our Facebook page or website. You can also find it on YouTube at @dreppink.

## **MARK YOUR CALENDAR**

**Wed. Dec. 17, 10:00am – Weekly Bible Study by Zoom.** Contact Pr. Ruth at [stpetershonolulupastor@gmail.com](mailto:stpetershonolulupastor@gmail.com) for the link

**Thurs. Dec. 18, 6:00pm - Jazz Vespers - “in person”** and on church Facebook page and website

### **Lectionary readings for next Sunday:**

Isaiah 7:10-16; Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18; Romans 1:1-7; Matthew 1:18-25

*The Book of Common Prayer (BCP) can be found online at [www.bcponline.org](http://www.bcponline.org)*



# **Advent and Christmas Worship Schedule at St. Peter's**

**Sunday, Dec. 14**

**7:30am service -- Children's Christmas Pageant**

**10:00am -- 3rd Sunday in Advent**

**Thursday, Dec. 18**

**6:00pm -- Blue Christmas Jazz Vespers**

**Sunday, Dec. 21**

**7:30am -- 4th Sunday of Advent**

**10:00am -- 4th Sunday of Advent**

**Wednesday, Dec. 24**

**5:00pm -- Lessons and Carols with a Pop up Pageant  
at the Cathedral of St. Andrew**

**7:30am -- Christmas Music and Carols**

**8:00pm -- Candlelight Worship Service**

**Thursday, Dec. 25**

**9:30am -- Christmas Day Service**

**Sunday, Dec. 28**

**9:30am -- This will be a festival worship of lessons and carols as we  
continue to celebrate!**

**Sunday, Jan. 4, 2026**

**7:30am -- 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Christmas**

**10:00am -- 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Christmas**

## TODAY'S MINISTERS

<b>Presider</b>		The Rev. Ruth M. Peterson
<b>Deacon</b>		The Rev. Dcn. Peter Wu
<b>Organist</b>		Dr. Josiph Eppink
<b>Pianist</b>	(7:30am)	Manny Dayao
<b>Lectors</b>	(7:30am)	Youth
	(10:00am)	Justin Deloss
<b>Intercessor</b>	(7:30am)	Rosa Dayao
	(10:00am)	Maiesha Stovall-Nakoa
<b>Eucharistic Ministers</b>	(7:30am)	Hal Halvorson
	(10:00am)	Gail Haruki
<b>Live-streaming</b>	(7:30am)	Manny Dayao, Terry Dang, Maiesha Stovall-Nakoa, Randall Chun
<b>Ushers/Greeters</b>	(7:30am)	Nancy Rowe, Willis & Jan Yap
	(10:00am)	Keith & Velma Lee, Cheryl Saito
		Barry Wood, Bryan Matsumoto
<b>Altar Guild</b>		Cheryl Saito, Rosa Dayao, Sim Kau
<b>Bread for Communion</b>		Barton & Beth Cox

## STAFF

<b>Priest-in-Charge</b>	The Rev. Ruth M. Peterson
<b>Assisting Priest</b>	The Rev. Dr. Bill Heran
<b>Director of Music</b>	Dr. Joseph Eppink
<b>Lay Associate for Worship and Music</b>	Manny Dayao
<b>Office Manager</b>	Susan Sugiyama
<b>Bookkeeper</b>	Richert Au Hoy
<b>Sexton</b>	Oriel Agcaoili
<b>Custodians</b>	Oriel and Caridad Agcaoili

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# Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne



1. Thou didst leave Thy throne and Thy king - ly crown When Thou  
 2. Heav - ens arch - es rang when the an - gels sang, Pro -  
 3. Thou cam - est, O Lord, with the liv - ing Word That should  
 4. When the heav - ens shall ring, and the an - gels sing, At Thy



cam - est to earth for me; But in Beth - le - hem's home was there  
 claim - ing Thy roy - al de - gree; But of low - ly birth didst Thou  
 set Thy peo - ple free; But with mock - ing scorn, and with  
 com - ing to vic - to - ry, Let Thy voice call me home, say - ing,



found no room For Thy ho - ly na - tiv - i - ty. O  
 come to earth, And in great hu - mil - i - ty. O  
 crown of thorn, They bore Thee to Cal - va - ry. O  
 "Yet there is room, There is room at My side for thee." My



come to my heart Lord Je - sus! There is room in my heart for Thee.  
 come to my heart Lord Je - sus! There is room in my heart for Thee.  
 come to my heart Lord Je - sus! There is room in my heart for Thee.  
 heart shall re - joice, Lord Je - sus! When Thou com - est and call - est for me.

Text: Emily E. S. Elliott, 1836-1897

Tune: Margaret, irregular with refrain; Timothy R. Matthews, 1826-1910

2025  
Christmas  
Dedications

Offerings made for your dedication request will go to the altar flower fund to provide flowers throughout the year.

Name (PRINT) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Given in \_\_\_ Memory \_\_\_ Thanksgiving \_\_\_ Other  
(please specify)

\*\*\*\*PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY\*\*\*\*

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Please place this form in the offering plate or mail to the church office. For publishing in the service bulletins, please submit your request by Sunday, December 14, 2025.

St Peter's Episcopal Church. 1317 Queen Emma Street.  
Honolulu HI 96813

FOR OFFICE USE: Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Received: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Check # \_\_\_\_\_ Cash \_\_\_\_\_



List your favorite Christmas carols which will be sung on one of the Sundays of Christmas! Please return this to church office by Dec. 21.

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